

~~SECRET~~20 MAY
1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Research and Analysis,
USIA

SUBJECT : Indications of Shifting Free World View
of Power Balance Between US and USSR

1. CIA is taking a close look at the mounting indications of a gradual shift in free world attitudes from a feeling that the US is incomparably the world's strongest power to a growing feeling that the USSR is indeed outstripping the US. We are reviewing our own and State Department field reports for indications of the above.

2. Some of the most valuable indications of the above trend are contained in the excellent public opinion survey reports produced by USIA. I have such studies in mind as your "Brief Summary of Some Survey Indications Bearing Upon US vs Soviet Scientific Prestige", December 1959. The Gallup Poll cited in the New York Herald Tribune of 12 February 1960 on who would be ahead in science ten years from now, is another case in point. Most directly relevant perhaps are your excellent WE-62 and WE-63 of April 1960 on the general standing of the US and USSR as seen through European eyes.

3. I would like to request an informal report pulling together the various opinion survey and other indications available to USIA which bear on this shift in free world attitudes toward the US-USSR power balance with particular reference to whether any trend lines can be discerned. It is of course a factor that the intelligence community as a whole should take increasingly into account.

/s/

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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